

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3328

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATOMIN: SCHEDULE FOR PRIVATE MEETING AND ISSUANCE
OF DECLARATION

REF: USNATO 3254

1. IN NAC DISCUSSIONS JUNE 12, PERMREPS ADDRESSED QUESTION OF WHETHER THE NATO DECLARATION SHOULD BE ISSUED ON THE FIRST OR THE SECOND DAY OF THE MINISTERIAL. FOLLOWING LEAD BY ASYG PANSA, COUNCIL AGREED THAT THERE WAS A "TENDENCY" IN FAVOR OF ISSUING THE DECLARATION ON THE SECOND DAY. CONCENSUS WAS DERIVED FROM LIKELIHOOD THAT ADDITIONAL TIME MIGHT POSSIBLY BE REQUIRED IN OTTAWA FOR COMPLETION OR DISCUSSIONS OF THE DECLARATION AND THAT ITS ISSUANCE ON JUNE 18TH WOULD TOTALLY DEFLECT INTEREST IN ANY COMMUNIQUE ISSUED A DAY LATER. SOME DELEGATIONS NOTED POTENTIAL FOR ADVERSE IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION IF THE PRESS SHOULD EXPECT RELEASE OF THE DECLARATION ON JUNE 18 AND IF THIS TIMETABLE COULD NOT BE MET.

2. IN DISCUSSION OF PLACEMENT ON THE SCHEDULE OF THE RESTRICTED MEETING OF FONMINS, ALL RECOGNIZED THAT THE SECRETARY'S PREFERENCES ON TIMING WOULD ULTIMATELY CONTROL
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SINCE HIS PRESENTATION WOULD BE THE CENTERPIECE OF THE SESSION. DE ROSE (FRANCE), ON A PERSONAL BASIS, CITED POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES FOR MINISTERS TO HAVE A MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS BEFORE THEY HAD HEARD THE SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION ON THE US-SOVIET SUMMIT MEETING.

LOGAN (UK CHARGE) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES HAD EXPRESSED SIMILAR CONCERN AND WOULD PREFER TO HOLD THE RESTRICTED MEETING ON THE MORNING OF THE FIRST DAY BUT WOULD OF COURSE BOW TO THE SECRETARY'S WISHES. ROY (CANADIAN CHARGE) SAID THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER FROM AN ADMINISTRATIVE POINT OF VIEW TO HOLD THE RESTRICTED SESSION IN THE AFTERNOON. DE ROSE NOTED THE SECRETARY'S INTENTION TO ARRIVE ON THE 17TH AND HOPED HIS PREFERENCE FOR A RESTRICTED SESSION IN THE AFTERNOON OF THE 18TH DID NOT MEAN HE COULD NOT ATTEND THE GENERAL SESSION THAT MORNING SINCE PROBLEM WOULD BE CREATED IF HE DID NOT ATTEND PRESENTATIONS BY OTHER MINISTERS.

3. MCAULIFFE (US) SAW NO REASON WHY DISCUSSION OF, FOR EXAMPLE, EAST-WEST RELATIONS WOULD IN ANY WAY BE INHIBITED BY PLACEMENT BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S DISCUSSION OF THE MOSCOW SUMMIT. HE SAID THE LATTER WOULD FOCUS ON BILATERAL US-SOVIET RELATIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE BUT WHICH WOULD NOT BE ESSENTIAL TO A USEFUL DISCUSSION OF SUCH ISSUES AS CSCE AND MBFR.

4. ASYG PANSA CLOSED WITH ARGUMENT THAT MUCH OF WHAT OTHERS MIGHT HAVE TO SAY ON EAST-WEST MATTERS COULD BE INFLUENCED BY THE SECRETARY'S PROJECTIONS OF THE MOSCOW MEETING. AS A COMPROMISE, THEREFORE, PANSA ASKED MCAULIFFE IF THE SECRETARY MIGHT BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT HOLDING THE RESTRICTED MEETING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE AFTERNOON, JUNE 18, SO THAT AT LEAST PART OF THE GENERAL DISCUSSION COULD BE HELD AFTER HIS PRESENTATION ON THE US-SOVIET SUMMIT.

5. COMMENT: NO OBJECTIONS WERE VOICED AT EITHER THE JUNE 10 DPC OR JUNE 11 NAC TO THE US PROPOSAL THAT THE PRIVATE MEETING BE SCHEDULED AT 1700 INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING THE MORNING OPENING CEREMONY. AT THIS POINT IN THE DEBATE IT WOULD BE BEST TO STICK WITH OUR PREFERRED TIME OF 1700 AND NOT REVERT TO THE MORNING (ONLY LOGAN WAS SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS, AND HE WILL DEFER), NOR TO THE EARLY AFTERNOON (WHICH NO DELEGATION

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EXPLICITLY SUPPORTED). ACCORDINGLY, MISSION WILL REITERATE SECRETARY'S PREFERENCE FOR 1700, UNLESS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS TO THE CONTRARY. RUMSFELD

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